THE MINISTER OF STATE JN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The amount of foreign exchange released for the import of these commodities during the period lst January 1985 to 31st January. 1986 is indicated beiow -

(Rs. crores)

	Amount of foreign exchange released	
	January Dec.1985	January 1936
Sugar . . .	453·5	150 0
Fertilizers . .	1483·5	Nil
Fertilizers raw materials		
(1) Sulphur .	294·5	..
(2) Raw- phosphate	171·8	..

(b) These imports became necessary for bridging the gap between demand and indigenous availability.

(c) The balance of trade position reflects the increase or decrease in imports and exports of various commodities and t_0 thi_s extent, would be affected by the imports of fertilizers and sugar referred to in (a) and (b.) above.

Retum of tobacco

957. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMEF,CE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per acre return of production of tobacco that the far mers get at present:

(b) whether it is a fact that, the return is very low in comparison to that which the farmers of other countrie$_p$ get: and

'(e) if so. what measures the Central Government propose to take to enhance the return of tobacco growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHEI P. SHIV SHANKER); (a) The average yield of Tobacco in India is estimated at around 1100 kg. per hactare.

(b) Yes, Sir. The yield is low due to low productivity and poor quality of tobacco produced ^{a}s compared to other compating countries,

(c) The Tobacco Board is implementing varioug technical programmes like Varietal Trials, Integrated Pest Management, Topping and Desucker-ing, and is taking other steps like supply of various inputs, improved cultural practices etc. i_n collaboration with State Governments and other ageneies like the Directorate of Tobacco Development and Central Tobacco Research Institute to increase production. Simultaneously, efforts are under way to evolve varieties capable of giving appreciable increases in the average farmer's holdings. Auction System has been introduced in the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for the sal$_e$ of Virginia Flue-cured Tobacco to ensure remunerative prices to the growers.

Accidents in mines

958.SHRI KALPNATHRAI: SHRI J.P.GOYAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state-

(a) what is the number of accidents in mines during 1985 resulting in deaths and injuries to mine workers; and

(b) whether any new rules and regulations have been formulated te ensure th$_e$ safety of mine workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The number of accidents which took plac$_e$